



# Los Angeles County AUDIT COMMITTEE

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March 15, 2011

## ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

14 March 15, 2011

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

*Sachi A. Hamai*  
SACHI A. HAMAI  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

### **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)**

#### **SUBJECT**

Request to extend the sunset review date for the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

#### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

Approve introduction of ordinance extending the Los Angeles County Arts Commission's sunset review date to December 1, 2012.

#### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission (Commission) was created by the Board pursuant to Chapter 3.38 of the Los Angeles County Code. The Board approved the most recent sunset review extension on September 8, 2009, which expired on December 9, 2009.

The Commission provided support to schools and community art programs, provided free public concerts, operated the John Anson Ford Theatre, and produced the annual Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration.

During the review period, of January 2007 to September 2009, the Commission accomplished the following:

- Awarded 13.5 million in grants and contracts for Fiscal Years, 2008-09, 2007-08, and 2006-07 supporting community-based non-profit arts organizations.

- Provided leadership and staffing support for the nationally recognized Los Angeles County Arts for All program serving public school children Kindergarten through 12th grade.
- Administered the Los Angeles County Civic Arts program for capital projects, integrating artwork into County facilities design.
- Operated the John Anson Ford Theatre, subsidized ticket program increased the number of students and children attending.
- Produced the annual Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration, televised nationally on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The Commission's adopted budget for FY 2008-09 was approximately \$10 million with a net County cost of \$8.3 million. The adopted budget supports cultural arts services to County residents, including but not limited to:

- Contracts and grant awards to various non-profit arts organizations
- Arts education
- The County's Civic Art Program
- The Annual Holiday Celebration

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The Commission has 15 members; three appointed by each Supervisor. The Commission is required to meet a minimum of 12 times per year. From January 2007 to September 2009, the Commission met 29 times, approximately ten times per year, with an average attendance of 11 members (74%).

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

The Commission's objectives for the coming period are as follows:

- Continue to implement the Arts for All initiative by coaching school district staff to develop arts education policies and plans, training spokespeople, launching a website and providing professional development to public school administrators for arts education.
- Continue to provide project management for the Civic Art Program, including providing guidance to departments for maintaining County-owned artwork and supporting the Public Art Coalition of Southern California, which provides a forum for public art administrators to share public art information (e.g., grant application process, reporting grant activity, monitoring grants, etc.).
- Continue to administer the Organizational Grant Program, including implementing an improved grants reporting instrument (e.g., grant application process, reporting grant activity, monitoring grants, etc.), launching an online database of County cultural venues, encouraging collaboration

between arts leaders and professionals, commissioning new works of art and increasing arts organizations' fundraising abilities.

- Partner with the Department of Children and Family Services to distribute information about paid internship opportunities to emancipated and foster youth, and promote internship opportunities with nonprofit organizations and colleges.
- Continue to operate the John Anson Ford Theatres, through partnerships with local arts organizations and producers.
- Continue to identify and secure sponsorships for the Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration, now in its 51st year.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Glasgow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lori" and last name "Glasgow" clearly distinguishable.

LORI GLASGOW

Chair

LG:tpk

Enclosures

c: c: Chief Executive Officer  
Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisor  
Commission Services  
County Counsel  
Auditor-Controller  
Los Angeles County Arts Commission



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-3873  
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WENDY L. WATANABE  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

MARIA M. OMS  
CHIEF DEPUTY

ASST. AUDITOR-CONTROLLERS

ROBERT A. DAVIS  
JOHN NAIMO  
JUDI E. THOMAS

November 10, 2010

TO: Audit Committee

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe  
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS  
COMMISSION**

**AUDITOR-CONTROLLER'S RECOMMENDATION**

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors (Board) to extend the Los Angeles County Arts Commission's sunset review date to December 1, 2012.

**BACKGROUND**

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission (Commission) was established in 1947 under Chapter 3.38 of the Los Angeles County Code. The Board approved the most recent sunset review extension in September 2009.

The Commission provides leadership in all arts disciplines, and provides staff and support to operate the John Anson Ford Theatres, an arts program for schools, the civic arts program for capital projects, the annual County holiday celebration and free public concerts.

The Commission has 15 members, three appointed by each Supervisor. The Commission is required to meet a minimum of 12 times per year. Commission members receive \$20 for each general and Executive meeting attended, with each type of meeting not to exceed two meetings in any calendar month. Members also receive reimbursement for necessary travel expenses.

## **JUSTIFICATION**

From January 2007 to September 2009, the Commission met 29 times, approximately ten times per year, with an average attendance of 11 (74%) members, which is a satisfactory level of meetings/attendance.

During the review period, the Commission's major accomplishments included the following:

- Under the Organizational Grant Program, awarded \$4.5 million in grants and contracts to 163 regional non-profit arts organizations in fiscal year (FY) 2007-08, and \$4.5 million to 228 regional non-profit arts organizations in FY 2006-07. The Commission also provided management assistance to more than 100 grantees in each of these two FYs.
- Provided leadership and staffing for the *Arts for All* initiative, which provides arts education to public school children in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The Commission received recognition of the initiative as a national model of how pooling resources and coordinating activities benefit children.
- Implemented, in concert with other major California arts funders, the California Cultural Data Project, a web-based system to streamline the grant application process, give cultural organizations access to financial reporting tools, and provide reliable information about the County's cultural arts sector.
- Oversaw the County's Civic Art Program for capital projects, which integrates artwork into County facilities. Through the Civic Art Program, the Commission led project coordination committees, commissioned artists, and oversaw artwork production for County facilities.
- Funded the largest arts Internship Program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Foundation. Through the Internship Program, the Commission provided training and experience opportunities with arts organizations to college students.
- Administered the performing arts series at the John Anson Ford Theatres (Ford). The Commission provided participating organizations the outdoor theatre, a technical package (e.g., lighting, sound, etc.), a marketing campaign and other assistance. The Commission also provided theatre companies an opportunity to produce new shows in the indoor theatre during the winter months. In addition, the Commission introduced a new subsidized ticket program for the Ford's summer dance series that more than tripled the number of students and children attending.

- Produced the annual Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration, a music and dance show, and the accompanying highlights program, televised nationally on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), and identified and secured sponsorships for the Holiday Celebration.

The Commission's objectives for the coming period are to:

- Continue to implement the *Arts for All* initiative by coaching school district staff to develop arts education policies and plans, training spokespeople, launching a website and providing professional development to public school administrators for arts education.
- Continue to provide project management for the Civic Art Program, including providing guidance to departments for maintaining County-owned artwork and supporting the Public Art Coalition of Southern California, which provides a forum for public art administrators to share public art information (e.g., trends, artists, performances, etc.).
- Continue to administer the Organizational Grant Program, including implementing an improved grants reporting instrument (e.g., grant application process, reporting grant activity, monitoring grants, etc.), launching an online database of County cultural venues, encouraging collaboration between arts leaders and professionals, commissioning new works of art and increasing arts organizations' fundraising abilities.
- Partner with the Department of Children and Family Services to distribute information about paid internship opportunities to emancipated and foster youth, and promote internship opportunities with nonprofit organizations and colleges.
- Continue to operate the John Anson Ford Theatres, through partnerships with local arts organizations and producers.
- Continue to identify and secure sponsorships for the Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration, now in its 51<sup>st</sup> year.

Please call me if you have any questions.

WLW:MMO:JLS:TK

Attachments

c: Ronald D. Rosen, President, Arts Commission  
Laura Zucker, Executive Director, Arts Commission  
Robin A. Guerrero, Chief, Board Operations  
Angie Montes, Acting Chief, Commission Services



**COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW**  
**LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION**  
**REVIEW COMMENTS**

**Mission.** (Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

The stated mission is as set forth in the ordinance establishing the Commission.  
**CONCUR.**

**Section 1. Relevance.** (Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

The Commission supports a variety of cultural arts services by providing information and resources to the community, artists, educators, arts organizations and municipalities. The Commission promotes the Board's goals for community and municipal services by providing access to cultural programs through the arts.

The Commission's mission appears to be **RELEVANT.**

**Section 2. Meetings and Attendance.** (Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?)

The Commission is required to meet a minimum of 12 times each year. From January 2007 to September 2009, the Commission met 29 times, approximately ten times per year, with an average attendance of 11 (74%) members.

Although the Commission's meeting frequency was slightly less than the monthly meeting requirement, the Commission's average attendance and accomplishments are satisfactory.

The Commission's meeting frequency and attendance is **SATISFACTORY.**

**Sections 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results.** (Are listed accomplishments and results significant?)

During the evaluation period, the Commission's major accomplishments included the following:

- Recommended to the Board contracts and grants totaling over \$4.5 million to non-profit arts organizations in each of the last two FYs.
- Provided leadership and staffing for the *Arts for All* initiative.



- Assisted in launching the California Cultural Data Project.
- Oversaw the County's Civic Art Program for capital projects, which integrates artwork into County facilities.
- Funded the largest arts Internship Program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Foundation.
- Operated the John Anson Ford Theatres.
- Produced the annual Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration, a music and dance show, and the accompanying highlights program, televised nationally on PBS, and identified and secured sponsorships for the Holiday Celebration.

The Commission's accomplishments and results are **SIGNIFICANT**.

**Section 5. Objectives.** (Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals and relevant within the current County environment?)

The Commission's objectives for the coming period are to:

- Continue to implement the *Arts for All* initiative.
- Provide on-going project management for the Civic Art Program.
- Continue to administer the Organizational Grant Program.
- Partner with the Department of Children and Family Services for internship opportunities for emancipated and foster youth.
- Continue to operate the John Anson Ford Theatres.
- Continue to identify and secure sponsorships for the Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration.

The Commission's future objectives appear **RELEVANT**.

**Section 6. Resources.** (Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?)

The Arts Commission's adopted budget for FY 2008-09 was approximately \$10 million with a net County cost of \$8.3 million. According to the Commission, the

adopted budget supports cultural arts services to County residents, including but not limited to:

- Contracts and grant awards to various non-profit arts organizations
- Arts education
- The County's Civic Art Program
- The Internship Program
- The Annual Holiday Celebration

The Commission's expenses appear to be WARRANTED.

**Section 7. Recommendation.**

**EXTEND THE SUNSET REVIEW DATE FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION TO DECEMBER 1, 2012.**

**Los Angeles County Arts Commission  
Attendance Record**

Commissioner	Nominated by:	3/31/07	6/30/07	9/30/07	12/31/07	3/31/08	6/30/08	9/30/08	12/31/08	3/31/09	6/30/09	9/30/09	Totals	% Attended
Number of Meetings per Quarter		3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	5	1	29	
Carlos C. Barrón	1st District	2	3	1	1	3	3	1	2	3	5	1	24	86%
Tomas J. Benitez	1st District	1	4	1	1	2	3	1	1	2	5	1	22	76%
Jesus A. Reyes	1st District											1	1	100%
Araceli Ruano	1st District	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	5	1	18	62%
Artene "Phoebe" Beasley	2nd District	3	3	1	2	3	3	1	2	3	4	1	26	90%
Aurelia Brooks	2nd District	0	1	0	2	1	2	1	2	2	5	1	17	59%
Rosalind Wyman	2nd District	1	4	1	2	2	3	1	1	3	5	1	24	83%
Judith A. Galperson	3rd District	2	4	1	1	1	3	0	2	1	5	1	21	72%
Ronald D. Rosen, Esq.	3rd District	2	3	0	2	3	4	1	1	2	4	0	22	76%
Hope Warschaw	3rd District	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	4	0	17	59%
Betty Haagen	4th District	1	4	1	1	2	3	1	2	3	3	1	22	76%
Laurel Karabian	4th District	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	2	4	1	27	93%
Peter Leunik	4th District	2	4	0	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	0	17	59%
Olive M. "Ollie" Blanning	5th District	2	4	1	1	3	3	1	1	2	4	1	23	79%
Marjorie S. Lyle	5th District	3	3	1	2	3	3	1	1	3	2	1	23	79%
Allis Clausen	5th District	1	3	0	1	2	4	1	1	1	4	1	19	66%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>27</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>323</b>	
Average Attendance per Meeting													11.1	

**Legend:**

Commissioner did not serve during this period.